

# YOU MAY KISS THE REAL BLARNEY STONE AT THE IRISH FAIR.

The Journal's Commissioner to Ireland Has Procured Part of the Genuine Stone---It Will Come to New York Under the Seal of the Mayor of Cork.

The Journal's Fair Commissioner to Ireland has accomplished the apparently impossible. As shown by his cables, he has secured part of the genuine Blarney stone. It will be the first time in history, according to the best authorities, that a section of this famous stone has been secured for exhibition in America.

At the Chicago Fair there was shown what purported to be a part of the Blarney stone, but few persons credited its genuineness. It was not properly vouched for, and people who really knew scoffed at the idea that it was anything but an imitation. It was, at the best, they said, only a part of the stone that is usually kissed by tourists at Blarney Castle. To kiss the genuine stone requires rather more nerve than the average man or woman possesses. The stone is so set under the parapet of the castle that to reach it with the lips it is necessary to hang by the heels from a dizzy height. Few people are bold enough to hang head downward even for the privilege of kissing the stone with its marvellous virtues. To overcome this objection another stone has been set for the benefit of tourists in a more convenient position. Thousands have pressed their lips to this imitation, after which they came away happy in the belief that they had touched the genuine piece of stone, and that thenceforth all the gifts of eloquence and persuasion necessary to complete success in this world were theirs.

The Blarney stone has been famous for four hundred years. The properties with which it is credited have been so generally accepted that no dictionary is now printed that does not recognize the verb "to blarney." The castle of which it forms a part is located in Blarney, a village of Munster, four miles from Cork. It was built by Cormick McCarthy in 1449, on a precipitous ridge of limestone rock rising from the deep valley of the Avonbeg.

How the Journal's commissioner succeeded in getting a section of the true stone does not appear from his cablegram. It must, however, have been a very difficult task, for Sir John Colthurst has in the past steadily refused to permit any part of the stone to be cut away. That he not alone made an exception for the Journal, but actually superintended the cutting of the stone himself, shows how strong his interest and the interest of the people in Ireland generally must be in the forthcoming fair.

The stone will occupy a prominent place in the Journal's big booth at the fair. With the floor of the booth made of genuine Irish soil laid according to the geographical lines of the different counties, the best bag, the reproduction of the grave of Robert Emmet, and the thousand and one other interesting and historic souvenirs, the Journal's display will be the most unique and striking thing of the kind ever seen.

And the other displays will not be far behind. Every one of the thirty-two county booths will be made as striking as possible, and so thoroughly typical of the districts they represent that visitors will feel as if they were viewing a genuine bit of their native land. The Irish Volunteers' booth, too, will make a striking exhibition. Mrs. James Moran, wife of the chairman of the Executive Committee of the fair, will be in charge of this table. Her assistants will be: Miss Katie Flood, treasurer; Miss Dolly Simakoff, secretary, and Mrs. Edward Cassin, Mrs. M. McCarthy, Miss McCaine, Miss Annie McDonald, Miss Margaret Gilligan, Miss Todd Simakoff and Miss Annie Flood. Donations are coming in rapidly for the Volunteer table. Among others received is a large and very handsome berry dish, the gift of Simpson, Hall, Miller & Co. The ladies will meet every Wednesday evening at No. 734 Third Avenue from now until the fair opens, and all ladies wishing to help the Volunteers are cordially invited to attend.

The other ladies' organizations are as active as the Volunteers. Sligo County's representatives have issued a call, which reads:

"Friends, Fellow Countrymen and Patriotic Sons and Daughters of Sligo--As you are already aware, the Irish race all over the world are looking forward with pleasure to the erecting of an 'Irish Palace Building,' to be used as headquarters for that gallant and patriotic body known as the 'Irish Volunteers,' and by all Irish societies where the Irish people can meet to express their feeling and espouse their sentiments.

"In the name of the Sligo ladies organization, we, the undersigned, appeal to you for aid. Shall historic Sligo be in the background, or shall the Sligo ladies have to contend with the apathy, nay, with the actual hostility, of those who should be in the forefront of any such movement?

"The Sligo ladies are working with redoubled energy to have their booth second to none and to be instrumental in making said building a credit to the Irish race. You know that it is absolutely necessary to have such a building erected, as the above named body of Irishmen are growing in numbers daily, and remember, that some body shall be a tower of strength and a growing, influential and irresistible force at the back of your struggling countrymen here and at home. Again, patriotic sons and daughters of Sligo, we appeal to you for help; will you not maintain that same spirit of patriotism with which your names have been identified in the past?

"Any gifts or donations will be thankfully received and kindly acknowledged by Mrs. A. M. Timberlake, No. 282 West One Hundred and Fifteenth Street, and by Mrs. W. Lockhart, No. 141 East Fifth Street, New York City."

The call is signed by Mrs. H. M. Timberlake, Miss K. O'Neill, Miss H. Harrison, Mrs. W. Lockhart, Miss B. Harro, Miss M. O'Connell, Miss K. Finn, Miss J. Kelly, John Wynne, M. T. Curran, M. McGuinness, J. D. Gallagher, J. Carroll, J. Gillan, John D. McGee, J. Carroll, J. Gillan, as members of the Executive Committee.

The Roscommon Ladies' Association has joined hands with the Roscommon Men's Association, and they have issued a joint appeal to the people of their county, in this country and in Ireland. It runs:

"A duty now devolves upon the sons and fair daughters of the County Roscommon, to aid in supplying a long-felt want which has hitherto handicapped our race in the metropolises of the West, and earnestly demands our united efforts in union with our sister organizations. A duty.

"The erection of an edifice creditable to our exiled people and equal, if not superior, to any institution of its kind in the United States, for their sole purpose,

## EXTRACT FROM THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL, DUBLIN.

The whole Irish-American population of New York are busying themselves in making the forthcoming Irish-American Fair one of the most brilliant and most successful undertakings of its kind. Both in its dimensions, and it is hoped in its results, the scheme will constitute a "biggest on record." From the 10th of May to the end of that month the Grand Central Palace of New York will become a miniature Ireland. One of the biggest and brightest of New York's great daily papers, the New York Journal, is taking the liveliest interest in the fair, and will be the only New York paper which will be represented in a booth. Its proprietor has determined to spare no expense in making the stall not only the most novel, but absolutely the most representative of all that will be gathered under the Grand Central Palace. He intends to have souvenirs of the historical and industrial associations of every county in Ireland shown upon the stall, and for the purpose of collecting these Mr. Thomas McVeigh, Jr., a member of the staff of the Journal, is at present on a visit to this country. Mr. McVeigh, who intends making a tour of Ireland with the object stated, is at present staying at the Shelbourne Hotel, where he will be glad to receive suggestions from all who feel interested in the project.

By Thomas McVeigh, Jr., New York Journal's Special Fair Commissioner to Ireland. (By Cable.)

Cork, Ireland, April 17.--I have obtained from the Hon. Patrick Hagin Meade, Mayor of Cork, the following certificate, which bears his official seal:

Mayor's Room, Municipal Building, Cork, April 14, 1897.  
I hereby certify that Mr. Thomas McVeigh, Jr., the New York Journal's Commissioner, and representative of the United Irish Societies of New York, having in charge the Irish Palace Building Fair, to be held in New York City from May 10 to Decoration Day, 1897, has secured a piece of the real Blarney Stone from Blarney Castle for exhibition at said fair.  
Mr. McVeigh has also the signature of Sir George St. John Colthurst, Bart., owner of Blarney Castle, as to the genuineness of the stones taken from the castle. The stones were secured in the presence of Sir George St. John Colthurst, Bart., and Mr. McVeigh, by James Harrington, the steward of Sir George Colthurst's estate.

PATRICK HAGIN MEADE, Mayor of Cork, 1897.  
The certificate also bears the signature of Augustin Roche, ex-Mayor of Cork, and at present an Alderman of the city.

## EXTRACT FROM DUBLIN INDEPENDENT.

The Irish in America are the only people who go to make up the vast strength of that composite State that have not a representative national building in New York City. Extraordinary efforts are now being made to put an end to this condition of affairs, and the project has been enthusiastically espoused by all sections of Irishmen, irrespective of creed, class, or politics. To obtain the funds necessary for the perfect success of such a great undertaking and Irish-American fair on a gigantic scale will be held in the Grand Central Palace at New York in May, and will last from the 10th of that month to Decoration Day. Great assistance is being given by the New York Journal. No expense is being spared by its proprietor to contribute to the success of the fair. He has actually sent a special representative to the old country, whose instructions are to obtain on loan or by purchase objects of Irish antiquarian or general interest for exhibition or sale at the fair. This gentleman is Mr. Thomas McVeigh, Jr., who has fixed his headquarters at the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin, where he may be communicated with in the first instance by persons having objects of Irish historical, antiquarian and industrial interest in their possession, or who know where they can be had.

use and representation is the direct object of our united people. This glorious enterprise is known as the Irish Palace Building, and its very title is effulgent with inspiring meaning.

"We have commenced a new era in our history which will also relieve us of being 'on the waves,' so to speak, and instead of seeking accommodation from another element when our social functions demand it, we will be able to entertain and recreate ourselves in our own amphitheatre, both socially and literally.

"How often do we stand in amaze and look with surprise at the progress of other nationalities in this respect and perhaps forget to ask ourselves what have our boastful people done where are the clubrooms we call our own and assemble in? Truly, we are deservedly great and have contributed monumental work for other nations and other people, but alas! we have neglected ourselves. A duty.

"Now this grand inspiration having taken root, will we not allow ourselves to lose one valuable moment in furthering its execution and stimulating the dormant impulses of young and old in its interest?

"We confidently feel that Roscommon will not act as a worthy child to mother Ireland and the value of her heroic sons in this lofty demanding and ambitious call, and prove a worthy competitor with sister organizations in crowning the deed and progress of our people's prove to the world that we are any object which we propose. It is one of the most colorful Irish history, legend and spot where the antiquary for weeks and find something interest him, and her son of to-day will feel the rope rests upon them and the hold.

"This 'Irish Palace Fair' May 10 and close on May 30, to be held in the Grand Central Palace, ten avenue, Forty-third to Fort street, so that we have ample the exhibit material we are composed.

"If we do our duty and assist the as we should the majestic work which undertaken will reflect honor on the tired children of the Gael.

"It is contemplated that the building include a hall for public meetings, a ball room, gymnasium, library, training school, labor bureau, an armory and administration rooms for the First Regiment, Irish Volunteers, and suitable rooms for the accommodation of society meetings.

Therefore, on behalf of our associations we appeal to you to send us some donation, souvenir or relic of the old land which will in part assist in the execution of our plans for the contemplated 'Irish Palace Building.'"

The Executive Committee which signs the call comprises Miss Lizzie Harrington, Miss Margaret Ford, Miss Nellie McDonald, Miss Katherine Kenny, Mrs. James Dean, Mrs. McNeill, Miss Josie O'Connor, John C. McGann, Jeffrey M. French, William A. O'Brien, James Byrne, John J. Igoe, James Callaghan, Patrick J. McDermott and William P. Murphy.

The Galway Ladies' Association will put out their appeal within a few days. An advance copy has been furnished to the Sunday Journal. It will be signed by the members of the Executive Committee, who are: Miss May Spellman, Mrs. Grady Purcell, Miss B. Carey, Matthew C. Ryan, Thomas Jennings, Michael C. Burke, Miss A. Jennings, Miss M. Larkin, Miss M. Hynes, William Minogue, Michael Cosgrove, Augustine E. Costello, Miss M. Wallace, Miss N. O'Connor, Miss B. Kealey, Patrick Conarty and Michael O'Connor.

The appeal is as follows: "We, the Executive Committee of the Galway Ladies' Association, feel assured of success if assisted by our dearer beloved and well wishing countrymen and women to furnish our table at the fair, to be held in the Grand Central Palace, beginning May 10 next. Experience teaches that a fire will not burn without fuel, steam cannot be generated without fire, an engine cannot work without power, and consequently nine-tenths of the mechanical work of the world would cease if the supply of fuel were cut short. In a similar way the work of this fair cannot be maintained and propagated without the supply of funds.

"In this special case, we therefore ask our friends far away across the ocean and our friends in America to help us by contributing any article or souvenir of ancient or modern historic value at their disposal the exhibit of which will add to the beauty and grandeur of our table at the fair.

"We have to thank you for your great and laudable co-operation in the past. The love and generosity you have hitherto displayed are known everywhere, and we feel confident you will not fail us in this great and noble work. Therefore those of you who wish to contribute to the fair will forward donations to the above address."

The Irish Volunteers will have a dress parade to-morrow evening. They will be reviewed by Colonel William L. Brown, treasurer of the Building Fair Fund. After the review the regiment will tender a reception to the ladies of the county organizations. Admission will be by ticket only. All the boxes will be reserved for the use of the ladies of the organizations.

The various other associations will have their addresses in the mails this week.

## MISS MARBURY TO SAIL.

Going to Europe to Look Up Some New Plays for Next Season.

Miss Elizabeth Marbury, who transacts more business as a play agent than any other single agent in the world, will sail for Europe within the next fortnight, in order to visit her several branch offices in Paris, London and Berlin and to establish offices in Vienna and Stockholm. In each of the first three cities Miss Marbury keeps a staff of clerks employed all the year round, her bright and tastefully furnished London offices having become a recognized influence in English theatricals. The last important stroke of business was the placing of "Lost, Strayed or Stolen," produced at the Duke of York's Theatre. Miss Marbury, in her official position as sole representative of the French dramatists in this country and in Great Britain, controls any arrangement to be made for the American and English rights of all the following plays now running in the French capital: "La Douleur," at the Vaudeville; "La Loi de l'Honneur," at the Comedie Francaise; "La Tour de Neve," at the Palais Royal; "Le Pompier de Service," at the Varietes; "Le Surin," at the Nouveaux; "Le Chevalier," at the Odéon; "Le Pape de France," at the Cluny, etc.



## EXTRACT FROM THE EVENING TELEGRAM, DUBLIN.

The Irish people generally will feel a keen interest in the forthcoming Irish-American fair, to be held in New York, with the object of providing funds for the erection of a magnificent building, which will shelter all the Irish-American organizations of that city under its ample roof. Last night's Evening Telegraph gave a brief outline of the scheme which the promoters have in hand, and of the mission on which a representative of the New York Journal, Mr. Thomas McVeigh, Jr., has come to Ireland in connection with the project. It is now some months since the idea was first broached, and since then every Irish-American association in New York has been busily engaged in assuring the success of the undertaking.

For the present Mr. McVeigh is staying at the Shelbourne Hotel, where he will be glad to receive any suggestions that may help in making the Irish-American fair a success.

## SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BIG FAIR.

They are well known for their patriotism, and represent their various county organizations in the work of organizing the fair for business.

## EXTRACT FROM THE IRISH TIMES, DUBLIN.

It is announced that from the 10th of May to the end of that month the Irish-American Organization of New York City, representing the thirty-two counties of Ireland, will hold, in the Grand Central Palace, New York, the greatest fair that has ever taken place in America under semi-public auspices. It is intended that the money obtained shall form the nucleus of a fund for the erection of a large building to be used as a headquarters for Irish-American literary, social and musical functions. Mr. Thomas McVeigh, Jr., representing the New York Journal, has come to Ireland, and is stopping at the Shelbourne Hotel, his mission being to invite the co-operation of the Irish public and to bring back interesting souvenirs, historical and otherwise, from each of the counties. The intended exhibition will be a purely Irish one, and there can be no doubt that its purpose will be useful.